



# PRESS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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### Idaho Red Meat Down 41 Percent

Commercial red meat production at Idaho packing plants for November 2005 totaled 22.4 million pounds, down 41 percent from last year according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. November production was down 7 percent from the 24.0 million pounds produced in October. Accumulated red meat production for the January-November 2005 period totaled 293 million pounds, down 29 percent from the comparable period a year earlier.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.94 billion pounds in November, up 5 percent from the 3.77 billion pounds produced in November 2004. Beef production, at 2.07 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, up 5 percent from November 2004. The average live weight was up 16 pounds from the previous year, at 1,284 pounds. Veal production totaled 12.4 million pounds, 10 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 56,300 head, down 17 percent from November 2004. The average live weight was 29 pounds above last year, at 365 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.84 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.13 million head, 2 percent above November 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 15.8 million pounds, was down 4 percent from November 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 224,500 head, 7 percent below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 5 pounds from November a year ago. January to November 2005 commercial red meat production was 41.8 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507.

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